



Central South Dakota Outdoor Report

Wildlife Division – Region 2



Brule/Buffalo Counties

Diana Landegent



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Fishermen have been catching nice sized walleyes from 15” to occasionally 24”. Fishermen have reported fishing with a bottom bouncer from Crow Creek down to the mouth of the Elm Creek. Many fishermen have been pulling plugs along the shorelines and in deeper water 15’ to 20’. The walleyes are towards the end of spawning or just finished spawning. Shoreline fishermen have been successful lately in the Chamberlain area.

The boat ramps in the Chamberlain area are open.

The fish cleaning stations in the Chamberlain area and Ft. Thompson are now open. The minimum length restriction is 15 inches with one walleye over 20 inches. The daily possession limit is 4 walleyes and 8 walleyes possession.

The area between the Interstate Bridge and Railroad Bridge known as the dredge hole is now closed until April 30th.

South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks are advising fishermen to pull their plugs when leaving the boat ramps to reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species. We are advising fishermen to dump or drain the water from their bait buckets when they leave the boat ramps as well.

REMINDER: Purchase your 2015 fishing license. The 2014 fishing license expired January 31st.

Get out and enjoy the nice weather!



Hunting Report:

Canada goose season closed February 15th.

The light goose conservation order closes May 3rd. This season includes snows, blue and Ross’ geese. Canada geese, white-fronted geese or any other goose species cannot be taken. Snow geese stuck around for a couple days last week, but no reports of snows geese have been reported in the area lately.

Archery turkey season opens April 4th – May 17th. Prairie turkey season opens April 11th through May 17th. There are approximately 44 leftover turkey tags for Brule County. There have been reports of turkeys seen at Boyer and Brule Bottom.

Campbell County

Doug DeLaRoi



Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below*

Some Northern and catfish being caught from shore, walleye bite is slow. Small ponds have had no use.



Hunting Report:

With the high fire dangers remember to be extra careful when recreating outdoors.

Corson/Dewey Counties

Shawn Madison:



Fishing Report:

Pudwell Dam: Good fish populations including several year classes of walleye, largemouth bass, crappie, and perch. Fishing activity has been low.

Morristown East: No activity but stocking efforts past two years has been successful for largemouth and crappies. Fish size is small. Some northern pike in this area.

Morristown West: No activity. Perch stockings have been successful ranging from 8-10 inches.

Trail City Dam: Little to no activity and a lot of small northern pike showed up in surveys.

Little Moreau #1: Activity low. Not much biting.

Little Moreau #2: Catching nice size rainbow trout on lures and corn with salmon eggs.

Isabel Lake: Some activity. Largemouth bass have been biting. Nice population of bluegill, some large being caught.

Eagle Butte Dam: No activity. Year classes of bluegill, look very good ranging from 6-8 inches. Bass numbers are very good as well as perch



Hunting Report:

Spring turkey is open. Turkey numbers are still low in the area but a small increase over last year. Get permission from the landowner before hunting. Success was spotty. The birds are still in large groups.

Charles Mix/Douglas Counties

Jeff Martin



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

The pitch bite for males seems to be on the decline if not completely over with. Most anglers seem to be marking and catching fish in 20-25ft. Success has come on both live bait and crank baits. Bottom bouncers with a plain Snell and a minnow always seem to be a good producer this time of year. Shad style cranks have been the style of choice; colors vary depending on the day. Look for fish to be sliding up shallower over the next couple weeks and hopefully getting more aggressive as well. The bite from shore seems to have slowed for the moment, but will pick up as the fish begin to move up shallower during this post spawn phase to feed aggressively.



Hunting Report:

This week looks like good stable weather. Turkeys should be breaking up into smaller groups if they haven't done so already. More hens will be starting to spend time on the nest making gobblers easier to call in during the midday hours.

Gregory County

Hans Walleser



Fishing Report:

No Report



Hunting Report:

No Report

Hyde/Hand Counties

Cory Flor



Fishing Report: See Missouri River report below

The annual Wall Lake Kids Fishing Derby will be held at Lake Louise on May 16 from 9am-11:30am and is open to anyone 15 years old and younger. The Wall Lake Club will be giving away door prizes and will provide lunch for kids and their families after the derby.



Hunting Report:

Applications for upcoming deadlines are now available on the GFP Website.

Hughes County

John Murphy



Fishing Report:

Fishing on Lake Sharpe has been slow to fair at West Bend, Antelope Creek area, Fort George, Bridges and Stilling Basin. Seem to be catching more fish in the bridge area of Pierre; anglers are reminded to measure walleyes on Lake Sharpe as there is currently a 15 inch minimum. Northern Fishing has been decent in the back of bays on Lake Oahe, some up to 20 lbs.



Hunting Report:

Turkey hunters are having fair success.

Jones County

Brian Ridgway



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

No Report



Hunting Report:

No Report

Lyman County

Brian Ridgway



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Case has been hit or miss. Fish are extremely hard to pattern and fisherman have been pulling out all tricks from day to day. Shore anglers are having best luck with crappie rigs and minnows. Fish have been real finicky using other methods. Boat anglers should keep trying

different methods if one method isn't producing fish. It appears the fish are on the verge of heavily spawning. Any day I predict the fishing to become phenomenal.



Hunting Report:
No Report

Potter County

Brad Saltsman



Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below:*

Potts Dam – no fishing activity.

Lake Hurley – Little fishing activity. A few northern's being caught from shore.

Simon Dam – no fishing activity.

Missouri River – Anglers are still catching northern and catfish from shore. Boat fishermen are doing well on smallmouth bass and a few walleyes. The smelt run shoals kick off this week with the warmer temps.



Hunting Report:
No Report

Stanley County

Josh Thompson



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.

Twin Dams – Fishermen have been catching a few bluegill and perch from shore.

Hayes Lake – Fishing activity has picked up some.

Ft. Pierre Nat. Grasslands – More fishermen have been starting to get out and take advantage of the nice bass opportunities these ponds offer.

Lake Oahe – Fishing activity has been fairly slow. Pike fishing has picked up lately in some of the bays, including the overflow spillway.

Lake Sharpe – The walleye bite has been pretty good down by the bluffs, south of town. The stilling basin and the railroad bridge also continue to be good areas that offer a chance of catching a fish.



Hunting Report:

Spring Turkey: Stanley County offers some neat opportunities to harvest the Merriam's Turkey. Remember that permission is always required to hunt private land in South Dakota. It is best to get permission before applying for a tag.

For any further information, Game, Fish & Parks hunting and fishing handbooks are available at local licensing agents; or you can visit the SD Game, Fish & Parks website at www.gfp.sd.gov.

Sully County

Andy Schmahl



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.

Cottonwood Lake: No Activity

Lake Oahe: Very little activity. Fishing has been very slow so far this spring on Lake Oahe in Sully County and there haven't been many people out.



Hunting Report:

No Report

Tripp/Todd/Mellette Counties

Chris Dekker



Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below

Stock dams are the hot spot right now. There are a lot of fish being caught. The new Winner Youth Pond is also producing some nice bass.



Hunting Report:

Turkey season is still going strong. The gobblers are looking for hens as the groups are starting to break up.

Walworth County

Doug DeLaRoi/Brad Saltsman



Fishing Report: See Missouri River report below

Some Northern and catfish being caught from shore, walleye bite is slow. Small ponds have had no use.



Hunting Report:

With the high fire dangers remember to be extra careful when recreating outdoors.

Missouri River report:

Lake Oahe and Lake Sharpe

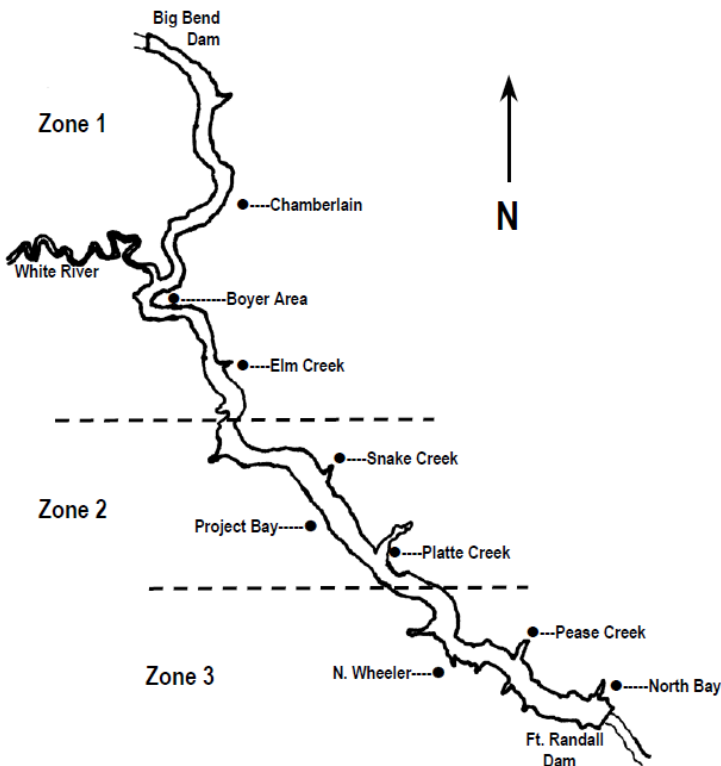
Kyle Potter

Lake Oahe

No Report

Lake Sharpe

No Report



Lake Francis Case

Gary Knecht

Zone 1

Fishing activity in the upper third has been busy. Shore anglers are doing well around Chamberlain. Boat anglers are having success from Kiowa to Crow Creek and in the White River area.

SIZE RESTRICTION - There is a 15 inch minimum length limit for walleye/sauger and only one walleye/sauger may be kept over 20 inches.

CLOSED AREA - The area between the railroad bridge and the I-90 bridge in Brule and Lyman counties is closed to fishing from Dec 1 through April 30.

Zone 2 and 3 – Fishing activity has increased with both boat and shore anglers catching a few fish.